



## REMARKS

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GROUP 3600

Applicants elect Group I, claims 1-22, for immediate examination.

The restriction requirement is traversed.

The examiner contends that Groups I and II are distinct because “the Group I generator need not use the geophysical cable of the Group II arrangement.” Absent any showing of two-way distinctiveness, the examiner has alleged only that the Group I generator is a proper and non-distinct subcombination of the Group II arrangement.

The examiner contends that Groups I and III are distinct because “the process as claimed [in Group III] can be practiced by another and materially different apparatus that uses an igniter along the whole length of the second channel.” Supposing that “second channel” is an error for “central channel,” neither claim 1 nor claim 26 in terms excludes the use of an igniter along the whole length of the central channel, so the apparatus and method *as claimed* in claims 1 and 26 are not distinct on this theory.

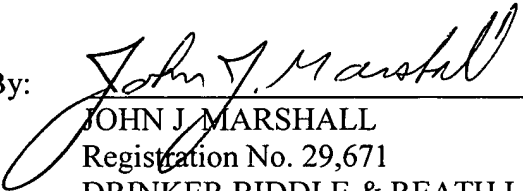
The examiner contends that Groups II and III are distinct because “the process as claimed [in group III] can be practiced by another and materially different apparatus ... by using propellant charges coated on their outer surface.” Both claim 23 and claim 26 recite the use of both bare and coated charges, so the apparatus and method *as claimed* in claims 23 and 26 are not distinct on this theory.

It is further respectfully pointed out that even if the inventions claimed were distinct, a restriction requirement would be improper absent a showing of separate classification, separate status in the art, or different fields of search.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the restriction requirement and examination of all claims in the present application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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